GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1088
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2015
Social Security Schemes for Migrant Workers
Rai Shri Prem Das

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government maintains any separate register for migrant workers and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether the Government has implemented any social security schemes for the benefit of migrant workers and if so, the details thereof along with the funds sanctioned/released/utilised thereon during each of the last three years;
(c) whether the Government has any mechanism to track the movement of migrant workers and if so, the details thereof;
(d) if not, whether the absence of such a mechanism has impacted the reach of social security schemes to such workers;
(e) whether the Government proposes to introduce a new central scheme to track the movement of migrant workers in the country to help the Government to target their social security benefits and if so, the details thereof; and
(f) whether the Government has conducted any study to assess the standard of living of migrant workers and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)

(a): No such data is maintained at the Central level.

(b) to (e): There is no specific scheme exclusively for the welfare of migrant labourers. However, in order to regulate the employment of Inter-state migrant workmen and to provide for their conditions of service, the Government has enacted the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979. The Act inter-alia provides for payment of minimum wages, journey allowance, displacement allowance, residential accommodation, medical facilities and protective clothing etc. to these workers. As per Section 13 of the Act, the wage rates, holidays, hours of work and other conditions of service of an inter-state migrant workman shall be the same as those applicable to other workmen.
Contdâ€¦2/-

Further, the Government has enacted the Unorganized Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 to provide for social security and welfare of unorganized workers which includes migrant workers also. The Act has come into force w.e.f 16th May, 2009. The Act provides for formulation of schemes by the Central Government for different sections of unorganized workers on matters relating to:
(a) Life and disability cover'
(b) Health and maternity benefits'
(c) Old age protection; and
(d) Any other benefit as may be determined by the Central Government.

The Act also provides for formulation of schemes by the State Governments relating to provident fund, employment injury benefits, housing, educational schemes for children, skill upgradation, funeral assistance and old age homes by the State Government.

The Government has launched Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) to provide health insurance coverage for certain categories of unorganized workers which include migrant workers also.

The Central Government monitors the implementation of the provisions of the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment & Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 for the establishments which fall under the Central sphere. The responsibility for enforcement of the provisions of the Act for the establishments located under the States sphere lies with the respective State Governments. The Central Government and some of the State Governments have signed Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate strengthening of inter-state coordination mechanism for smooth implementation of the activities in source and destination areas of migrant workers.

(f): The Central Government has not conducted any study to assess the standard of living of migrant labourers.

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